

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amended the specification as noted in the identified paragraphs. Support for these amendments is found in the specification, for example, at pg. 5, ln. 16, which states that “the pile stop can essentially move in the plane of its surface.” The planar surface of the belt 22 is clearly illustrated in figures 1 - 4 between lower pulley 24 and upper pulley 26.

The paragraph at pg. 5, ln. 16 - pg. 6, ln. 6.

The pile stop can essentially move in the plane of its surface. The impingement angle can be between 90 and 100 degrees. The stop can be built of at least one belt, which runs upwards under the impingement angle. At least one belt can be a belt that can run endlessly and whose ~~lump~~ planar surface is turned towards the pile upwards and is running upwards under the impingement angle. The stop can be built with at least one slider, which can be moved upwards basically in a linear manner under the impingement angle. The slider may have at least one step, which picks up the front edge of the uppermost sheet. A sensor may detect the contact of the front edge of the sheet with the slider and may start the driving of the slider. A dividing element can be moved between the front edge of the uppermost sheet moving upwards at the stop and the front edge of the following second sheet. The at least one dividing element can be mounted before the front edge of the pile pointing towards the front edge of the pile that can be moved between the uppermost sheet and the following second sheet. The dividing element may intervenes by means of a finger between the uppermost sheet and the following second sheet and holds down the second sheet. A press-on roller can be mounted on the at least one dividing element, which presses the uppermost sheet against a driven pull-off roller when the dividing element between the uppermost sheet and the next sheet.

The paragraph at pg. 10, lns. 3 - 11.

The stop in the case of the implementation example shown in figures 1 to 4 consists of endlessly running belts 22, which rotate through a lower driven pulley 24 and an upper pulley 26. Several belts 22 are provided axially positioned at a distance from each other over the width of the front edge of the pile 10. The belts 22 are (in the figure) propellable in clockwise direction. The ~~lump~~ planar surface on the belts 22, which is running upwards and is turned towards the pile 10, represents the stop for the sheets of the pile 10. In the shown implementation example, this running upwards ~~lump~~ planar surface

forms with the flat plane and the feeding direction of the fed uppermost sheet 12 an angle of about 100 degrees.

The paragraph at pg. 11, lns. 1 - 7.

Figure 1 shows the device in off-position. The rolling action device 14, the belts 22, and the pull-off roller 34 are not driven on. The dividing element 28 is swayed to its off-position, in which the free tip of the finger 32 is situated on the side turned away from the pile 10 and behind the upwards-running **lump planar surface** of the belts 22. The upper sheets of the pile 10 are selected by the previous fanning out in the form of scales, whereby the uppermost sheet 12 is pushed farthestmost to the right against the belts 22.

The paragraph at pg. 11, lns. 8 - 19.

When a request signal comes from the office machine, the rolling action device 14, the belts 22, and the pull-off roller 34 are activated. The turning rollers 16, which lie on the uppermost sheet 12 of the pile 10, begin to move on the uppermost sheet 12 to the right in order to push this sheet to the right. In this way, the uppermost sheet 12 is pressed with its front edge against the upwards-running **lump planar surface** of the belts 22. As it is shown in Figure 2, the belts 22 take up the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12, whereby this front edge of the uppermost sheet 12 is lifted from the front edge of the second sheet 20. Then a minimal feeding push on the uppermost sheet 12 by the rolling action device 14 is sufficient in order to press the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12 against the belts 22 and to lift the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12. This minimal feeding path can be performed very quickly. Thereby the front edge of the second sheet 20 does not yet come in position at the belts 22.

The paragraph at pg. 11, lns. 20 - 27.

While the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12 is being lifted upwards by means of the belts 22, the dividing element 28 swivels in counterclockwise direction from its neutral position shown in figures 1 and 2. In the position shown in Figure 3, the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12 has reached the upper end of the upwards-running **lump planar surface** of the belts 22. During the swinging motion, the dividing element 28 arrives with the free tip of the finger under the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12 and therewith between the front edge of the uppermost sheet 12 and that of the second sheet 20.

The paragraph at pg. 12, ln. 20 - pg. 13, ln. 2.

It is easy to understand that the steep impingement angle of the upwards running **lump planar surface** of the belts 22, which forms the stop, has the consequence that only a very light push of the uppermost sheet 12 by the rolling action device 14 is sufficient to lift vertically the uppermost sheet 12 away from the second sheet 20 and to separate it

completely and reliably from the second sheet 20. In such a way, this results in high separation speed combined with the reliable separation by means of the rolling action device that does not depend on the paper quality. Also when the front edge of the sheet 12 bends upwards on a path in the form of a circular arc, the front edge remains in contact with the belts 22 because their upwards-running ~~lump~~ planar surface is tipped over the pile 10.